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VICTOR RIESEL: INSIDE LABOR

Soviet Agents Seek Nossenko

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WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 17. Soviet security police agents who work undercover as members of the Communist bloc diplomatic missions to this capital and the UN are searching for the latest defector, Yuri I. Nossenko, who was more than a KGB staff officer when he took a taxi out of Geneva and simply drove across the French border. Nossenko was a "Control Commission" member assigned to ride herd on the USSR delegation to the disarmament conference. He had special orders to prevent any of them from defecting to the West.

The Soviet's triggermen are under orders to kidnap Nossenko if possible and to kill him, if not. If they should succeed in destroying the former KGB officer, it would not be the first time they have murdered an erstwhile comrade in the U.S. in an effort to protect their network of more than 1,000 military, scientific and industrial spies in this country. This figure is based on an estimate made recently by FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, who in turn based his estimate on reports made by previous defectors.

Typical of the daring Soviet counter-espionage police operations inside the U.S. is the strange "accident" which befell Reino Hayhanen, a former KGB lieutenant colonel. Back in the Spring of 1957 Colonel Hayhanen was ordered back to Moscow from a foreign assignment. He suspected he would be liquidated on his return home. Instead of flying to Russia he went to Paris, walked into the U.S. Embassy and asked for asylum.

Hayhanen was rushed to the U.S. In New York he located the studio of Russian master spy Rudolph Ivanovich Abel. It was in that studio that Abel processed secret documents by photographing them and reducing the papers to the size of pin heads—a process called micro-spotting.

Abel did not know Hayhanen had defected and worked with him until he was arrested by the FBI in the Hotel Latham. The defector's testimony at a dramatic trial got Abel a 30-year sentence. Later Abel was exchanged for U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers.

MYSTERIOUS DEATH

Not too long ago Hayhanen was killed in a mysterious auto crash on a U.S. turnpike which intelligence sources believe was the work of the KGB itself.

The Soviet State Security Police special murder unit operates like the Mafia—and sometimes hires underworld thugs.

The killing of a defector is a warning to others not to quit and talk. Otherwise it might be difficult to keep their

large number of agents in line in such nations as the U.S. Fully 80 per cent of Soviet bloc diplomats and their dependents are trained for espionage and have special assignments in our country.

J. Edgar Hoover reported recently that, as of Nov. 1, 1963, there were 484 Soviet officials stationed in diplomatic missions in the U.S., many of who are not diplomats but professionally trained engineers and scientists. They had with them 515 dependents, a great number of whom Mr. Hoover regarded as potential espionage agents.

But this is hardly the full accounting. Soviet spying is coordinated with the intelligence systems of satellite nations. FBI investigations disclose that Soviet bloc army, navy and air attaches of Eastern European embassies meet regularly in New York and Washington under Soviet direction.

POTENTIAL INCREASED

This almost doubles the Soviet intelligence potential, for there are 407 satellite diplomatic personnel and their 540 dependents.

Furthermore, since 1924 the Russians have been spying on our secret industrial defense production system from a base inside a Soviet commercial agency called the Amtorg Trading Corp. It is located on the 19th floor of a New York skyscraper at 355 Lexington ave. Last October, one of its so-called chauffeurs using the name of Igo Ivanov was arrested by the FBI and charged with participation in a plot to steal the secrets of our military global electronic communications system.

"...Based on our investigations," Mr. Hoover wrote in a recent publication, "we know that Amtorg, staffed by Soviet intelligence agents, is a seedbed of espionage. Prior to diplomatic recognition of the Soviet Union in 1933 and the opening of the Soviet Embassy, it served as the chief base of Russian spy operations in the U.S."

There are other KGB assignments in the U.S. One of these is a directive to recruit young Americans, plant them in sensitive U.S. government agencies and thus siphon off defense secrets. One such KGB agent, camouflaged as a member of the U.N. Secretariat, was Vadim A. Kirilyuk. His task was to infiltrate U.S. security agencies handling codes and cryptography. The FBI nabbed him in the act of attempting to bribe a young American. The Russian was ordered out of the country. Others took his place.

No one knows who tipped the FBI but we do know that Soviet defectors have contacted Mr. Hoover over the years. The KGB wants to dry up the stream of defectors. They'll kill, if necessary. That's why they're looking for Yuri Nossenko.

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